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Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 ACDA-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /091 W
---------- 025493
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2409
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
CINCEUR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
CINCUSAFE
USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 1137

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR
SUBJ: CONTINUING TURKISH COVERAGE OF THE CANCELLATION OF TURKISH FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. NEWS SPECULATION ON THE POSTPONEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO THE U.S. CONTINUED TO DOMINATE THE HEADLINES IN MOST TURKISH DAILIES FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11. PAPERS CARRIED ON THEIR FRONT PAGES THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT CITING THE RECENT ILLNESS OF MRS. KISSINGER AS THE REASON FOR DELAY.

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2. NILUFER YALCIN IN MILLIYET REPORTED THAT THE

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SUGGESTION FOR A POSTPONEMENT OF CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT OVER
THE WEEKEND CAUGHT THE AMERICANS BY SURPRISE. ACCORDING
TO YALCIN'S SOURCES, THE U.S. WANTED TO CONCLUDE THE
DEFENSE TALKS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THAT WAS WHY THE
SENATE DEBATES WERE POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 18. NOW THE
SOURCES SAY THE VISIT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER
SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RETURN FROM LATIN AMERICA. YALCIN'S
STORY WENT ON TO NOTE THAT TURKISH OFFICIALS INSISTED
THAT THE REASON CITED IN THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT FEBRUARY 10 WAS THE

SOLE CAUSE FOR DELAY. YALCIN SAID THAT IT IS
BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WAS DUE TO A
DESIRE TO SEE WHICH WAY CONGRESS WILL GO BEFORE SIGNING
A JOINT DEFENSE AGREEMENT. YALCIN QUOTED "OFFICAL SOURCES"
AS SAYING "IF CONGRESS STILL IMPOSED CONDITIONS AND
RESTRICTIONS ON MILITARY AID EVEN AFTER THE MINISTER'S
VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT, THEN
THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT COULD NOT EXPLAIN IT TO ITS OWN
PUBLIC OPINION NOR THE WORLD AND THIS WOULD ELIMINATE THE
POSSIBILITY OFPUTTING THE TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS BACK
ON THE RAILS. IT WILL BE MORE FITTING, THEREFORE, IF
THE ATMOSPHERE JUSTIFIES THE SIGNING OF A DEFENSE
AGREEMENT. MEANWHILE THE CONGRESSIONAL DECISION WILL
BE KNOWN...."

3. WRITING IN THE SAME PAPER SAMI KOHEN REPORTED FROM
WASINGTON THAT THE POSTPONEMENT CAUSED CONCERN IN OFFICIAL
WASHINGTON CIRCLES AND MANY MEETINGS WERE REPORTEDLY HELD
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
HARTMAN. ACCORDING TO KOHEN, AMERICAN OFFICIALS ALSO SEE
NO POLITICAL REASON FOR DELAY OF THE VISIT WHICH MAY NOW
TAKE PLACE AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH. ACCORDING TO THESE
SOURCES 85 PERCENT OF THE ISSUES ON THE GOOSEBAY AGREEMENT HAVE
BEEN SOLVED AND THE REMAINING ONES COULD BE SOLVED BY
THE TWO MINISTERS. ACCORDING TO KOHEN, IF THE VISIT DOES
NOT TAKE PLACE IN EARLY MARCH, THEN IT WILL BE CLEAR
THAT POLITICAL REASONS WERE BEHIND THE POSTPONEMENT. KOHEN
ENDED BY NOTING THAT THE U.S. WAS ANXIOUS TO SEE THE VISIT
TAKE PLACE BEFORE TOO LONG AND VIEWED THE DELAY AS "UNFORTUNATE."

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4. GUMHURIYET'S STORY REPORTED THAT THE CAGLAYANGIL VISIT
WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED.
ACCORDING TO GUMHURIYET'S TURKISH SOURCES, TURKEY WANTS
CLARIFICATION OF CONGRESS' STAND ON MILITARY AID. THE
SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS SAYING: "IT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE
DEFERMENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATES, WASHINGTON AIMED
ADDRESSING CAGLAYANGIL BY SAYING 'IF YOU DO NOT SIGN
THE BASE AGREEMENT IMMEDIATELY IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE

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TO LIFT THE EMBARGO. AS TURKISH DIPLOMACY SAW THROUGH THIS GAME, IT WAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE MINISTER'S VISIT. TURKEY THUS SAYS 'LET US SEE THE CONGRESSIONAL DECISION FIRST. THEN WE'LL LET YOU KNOW OUR DECISION.'"

9) IN GUNAYDIN TEOMAN EREL WROTE THAT THERE WAS INDEED AN ILLNESS WHICH CAUSED THE CAGLAYANGIL POSTPONEMENT, BUT IT WAS NOT MRS. KISSINGER'S. CAGLAYANGIL ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD A COLD SO WAS NOT GOING FOR THAT REASON. THE REAL ILLNESS, HOWEVER, IS IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THIS BEING AN ELECTION YEAR IN THE U.S., THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT ABLE TO PROMISE TO CHANGE THE ATTITUDE OF CONGRESS TOWARDS TURKEY. IF CAGLAYANGIL WENT TO WASHINGTON AND WAS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN SIGNING AN AGREEMENT AND UNFRIENDLY ACTIONS BY CONGRESS, TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION WOULD BE IN AN UPROAR. THUS IN THE END, CAGLAYANGIL LISTENED TO THOSE WHO WERE ADVISING HIM NOT TO GO TO WASHINGTON, AND DESPITE THE REPORTED INSISTENCE OF AMBASSADOR MACOMBER, HE CANCELLED HIS VISIT.

6. ALI SIRMEN IN CUMHURIYET NOTED: "...AT ONE POINT THERE WAS AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW IN WASHINGTON ON THE TURKISH-AMERICAN DISCUSSIONS AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. IT WAS SO WIDESPREAD THAT IT WAS EVEN REPORTED THAT NEW TURKISH-AMERICAN DEFENSE AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED....IT SEEMS THAT THE REASON FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT IS THE DISORDER IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, RATHER THAN MRS. KISSINGER'S HEALTH OR THE MINISTER'S ILLNESS....THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE AMERICAN EXECUTIVE (BRANCH) IS INVOLVED IN ANY SINCERE EFFORT TO LIFT THE

EMBARGO....IN FACT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY THAT THE IGESIDENT COULD OVERCOME THIS HURDLE EVEN IF HE WANTED TO...ONE CANNOT SAY AMERICAN INTERESTS HAVE BEEN DAMAGED IN THIS AREA SINCE THE EMBARGO. THE NATIONALIST FRONT (DEMIREL) GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ATTEMPTED ANY REAL, STRONG MEASURES AGAINST THE U.S. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT IMPORTANT AMERICAN BASES ARE OPERATING IN TURKEY TODAY... IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE UNITED STATES, WHETHER ON THE LEVEL OF THE EXECUTIVE OR CONGRESS, IS NOT FACED WITH A FORCE TO MAKE HER CHANGE HER ATTITUDE TOWARD TURKEY..."
BERGUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA01137
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760052-0813
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760261/aaaacbpu.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: housmasa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by housmasa>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING TURKISH COVERAGE OF THE CANCELLATION OF TURKISH FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, OVIP, TU, CY, GR, (CAGLAYANGIL, ISHAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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